GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:384
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Facilities to Differently Abled Persons at Airports
Boianapalli Shri Vinod Kumar

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) has proposed to change security protocol rules relating to differently abled persons at airports after the recent alleged humiliation meted out to Paralympian Aditya Mehta;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry proposes to install full-body scanners, which would do away with the need for the differently abled to remove their support for frisking;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of CIVIL AVIATION

(Shri Jayant Sinha)

(a) & (b): Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the regulatory authority for Civil Aviation Security in the country, has circulated Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) in March, 2014, which inter-alia provides that:-;

(i) All airport operators should take make special arrangements to facilitate screening of persons with special needs as above so that the process is carried out efficiently keeping the dignity and privacy of the passenger in mind while ensuring adequate level of screening. This will include provision of suitable enclosed space for private screening of passengers covered in this SoP.;

(ii) In case of a passenger having difficulty in walking or standing, the way his or her screening is conducted will depend on his or her level of ability/disability.;

(iii) During screening of prosthetics Aviation Security Group(ASG)/Airport Security Unit(APSU) may use X-ray, ETD and visual check depending on the circumstances.;

(iv) Dignity and privacy of the passengers should be borne in mind during the entire process of security screening. Where the officer needs to see the prosthetic, care should be taken against exposing any sensitive areas. ASG/APSU will also use technology to test the prosthetic for traces of explosive material. If explosive material is detected, the passenger will have to undergo additional screening. ;

(c) to (e): Deployment of full body scanner may not solve the problem of all the disabled persons as they may not be in a position to stand on their own. However, it may help in case of some partially disabled persons.